distribution under the Welfare Schemes and other Schemes of the Government. Under the TPDS, the number of beneficiaries is 6.5 crore households which includes one crore households covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme.

**Hunger Free India Mission**

1975. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mission "hunger-free-India" to be completed by the year 2007;

(b) if so, the details including the steps taken for achieving the above;

(c) if so, the details of National and International agencies/ Departments/Ministries associated with the above task;

(d) if so, the details of the "hunger hot spots" of the country identified as a part of the above mission; and

(e) if so, the action taken, if any, to end poverty induced 'chronic hunger' and the 'transient hunger' caused by drought and natural calamities, as of today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Action has been in hand to ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the Poorest of the Poor in rural and urban areas. Towards this end, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice to the beneficiaries identified by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Scale of issue to these beneficiaries has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April 2002. The Yojana which initially covered 1 crore Poorest of the Poor families has been expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families.

Besides, various welfare schemes such as the Targeted Public Distribution System, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Mid-day Meal, Integrated Child Development Scheme etc. are also under

implementation to address the food security concerns at the household and individual levels.

**Sugar mills in Karnataka**

1976. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar factories in Co-operative sector are not in a position to pay dues to the farmers;

(b) the steps, Government propose to take for the payment of arrears to the sugarcane growers;

(c) the steps taken by the Karnataka Government for the revival of, sick Co-operative sugar mills in the State; and

(d) the amount due to farmers from Co-operative sugar factories in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The sugar factories have, in general, expressed difficulties in payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane farmers. In recent months, the Central Government initiated several steps to assist the sugar industry to clear cane price arrears including creation of buffer stock of the 20 lakh tonnes of sugar (in December 2000) for a period of one year, reimbursement of internal transport charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on exports of sugar.

(c) and (d) Government of Karnataka has reported that a Cabinet Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Agriculture has been appointed to go into details about the reasons and possible revival in respect of sick sugar mills. The amount due to sugarcane farmers from Co-operative sugar factories in the State is Rs. 64.30 crores.

**Diversion of sugar meant for export**

1977. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Maharashtra a number of sugar mills and exporters have directed sugar meant for export in the domestic market violating